AJTs for IAF

*368. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have plans to acquire Advanced Jet Trainer aircrafts for the use of Indian Air Force ;

(b) if so, the details of the requirements and the offers received from various sources, including costs involved and merits of the aircrafts; and

(c) the details of the existing position of the Trainer Aircrafts ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have approved procurement of 66 AJT aircraft for the Indian Air Force. After evaluation of various trainer aircraft available in the world market, the Air Force has short-listed the French Alpha Jet and British Hawk. Commercial negotiations with the vendors are yet to commence and therefore, cost details are not available presently.

(c) The Mig-21 trainer aircraft presently used for stage-III training of IAF pilots are approaching the end of their technical life. The strength of these aircraft is expected to decrease over the coming years. This aspect has been taken into consideration in procurement of AJT.

Investigation of Shivani Murder Case

*369. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CBI/Delhi Police is investigating the murder case of Delhi based journalist, Shivani;

(b) if so, whether the investigation report has since been submitted;

(c) what are the details of investigation including interrogation of Central Ministers in the case as demanded by husband of Shivani;

(d) what action has taken on the basis of investigation report ; and

(e) if answer to part (b) above is negative, the time by when investigation is likely to be completed ?